

THREE COUNT[©]

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Simmons Wins WCW Title; Jake Debuts, DDTs Sting

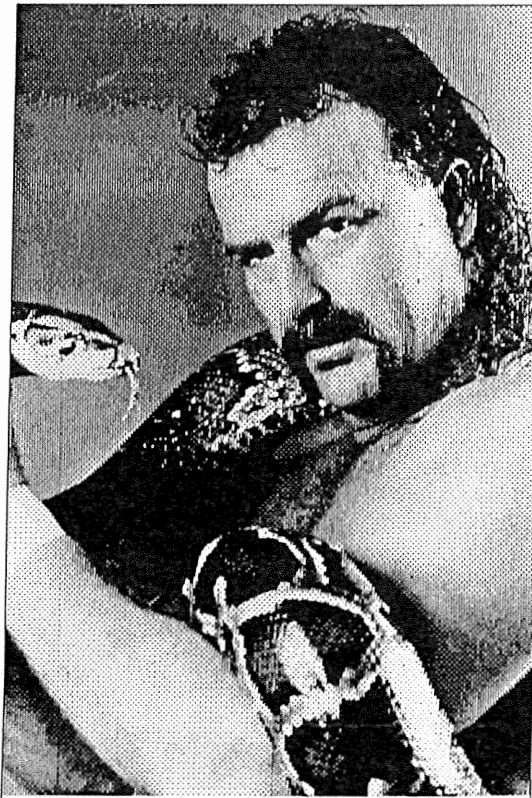
By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

Ron Simmons became the new World Championship Wrestling heavyweight title holder August 2 by defeating Big Van Vader in Baltimore at a WCW television taping.

Simmons, the first African-American to ever hold a major world singles title, won the championship by pinning Vader with a powerslam in what was considered a very good match.

Sting, not Simmons, was the scheduled contender to face Vader in Baltimore. However, Sting was removed from the match after sustaining two DDTs from the debuting Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

Earlier in the evening, Rick Rude wrestled Nikita Koloff. Referee Pee Wee Anderson was knocked down, and Koloff sickled Rude soon after. Cactus Jack emerged from the dressing room and began beating on Koloff until Sting made the save. As Sting



Jake Roberts debuted in World Championship Wrestling August 2, giving Sting three DDT's at a television taping in Baltimore. Ron Simmons, taking Sting's place, defeated Big Van Vader for the WCW title on the show. File photo.

brawled with Jack after several minutes, Roberts emerged from the audience and DDT'd Sting twice on a steel chair. Roberts was going to place a snake on top of Sting, but Rick and Scott Steiner, Dustin Rhodes and Barry Windham made the save.

The first Sting-Rick Rude match was held August 15 in Jacksonville and was ruled a no contest (details of the match and card will appear in Issue 45 of *Three Count*). Sting defeated Roberts via disqualification August 16 at a television taping in the Omni.

WWF Ripped by Media Again

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor
NEW YORK -- The World Wrestling Federation is once again under attack by news media as allegations of sexual abuse toward minors by former employees continue to grow.

Phil Mushnick of *The New York Post*, who has written several stories about the WWF during the past year, attacked the promotion and New York State athletic commissioner Randy Gordon for not investigating the allegations in the newspaper's August 7 issue. Jeff Savage, a former writer for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, also blasts the WWF in the September issue of *Penthouse Magazine*.

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Sheet Spotlight

Because of a post office snafu, I am severely backlogged in writing about several newsletters that have been published in the last few months. Those that are dated will be mentioned briefly, with highlights comprised of feature or non-news events (because the news is outdated at this time). To all newsletter writers, if sample issues are available, please indicate on the copy sent to me. Also, please make sure subscription and publication information is printed in the issue itself.

• **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (August 10): Detailed analysis of the **Jeff Savage** WWF article in the September issue of *Penthouse Magazine*; Update on the lucha libre cards being run in the Los Angeles area; Loads of Japanese news and television analysis; Great line about **Ice Killer** being named vice president of a new wrestlers union in Mexico -- "Can you imagine forming a union and the vice president is named Ice Killer?". Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

• **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (July 23): Wade analyzes the Global Wrestling Federation's first year of operations in-depth; **Eric Krol** writes that WCW's roster currently does not contain a good candidate for champion; Second part of a *Torch Talk* with NAWA promoter **Tony Mara**. (July 30): Analysis of the *Penthouse* story; Continuing detailed reports of the Global Wrestling Federation in Texas; **Bruce Mitchell** column on **Bill Watts'** relationship with newsletter writers; *Torch Talk* with **The Lightning Kid**. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

• **Dave Prazak's Outside Interference** (July 21): Dave's analysis of the Great American Bash; A great column by **Anthony Scala** reminiscing on meeting WWF wrestlers in New York's Ramada Inn; **Dave Ihlenfeld's** mid-year awards; Humorous "Odds and Ends" section harping on yours truly, among others; Several other columns on WCW and Watts, too. Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. 2278 Hidden Creek Court, Lisle, IL 60532-1168.

• **Ron Lemieux's Arena Report** (July 20): Live report from IWF card in Winter Haven, Fla.; Entertaining **Jeff Bowdren** column analyzing Smokey Mountain Wrestling; Columns by **Klon**, **Marianne Ryan** and **Scott Hudson**. Bi-weekly; \$1 an issue. P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, Fla., 32795-2547.

• **Andrew Goldberger's Around the Ring** (May 8, 1992): First person stories by the following -- **Afa the Samoan** on the perils of wrestling on a tour of Lebanon; **Dutch Mantell** on the murder of **Bruiser Brody** (which was excellent and a must-read for fans of Brody); **Tony Burton** on wrestling in the Universal Wrestling Federation International shoot-fighting group (also a must for hard-core Japanese wrestling fans). Also, a column by **Hisaharu Tanabe** on the **Tatsumi Fujinami** vs. **Riki Choshu** feud. Great issue. (July 1992): Andrew's insightful analysis of independent promoter **Tony Capone**; Translation of interview with FMW owner **Atsushi Onita** from Japanese magazine *Weekly Pro Wrestling*; Extremely enjoyable article by wrestler **Bill "Superstar" Dundee** on going "back to the basics" in wrestling; A **Dr. Mike Lano** column -- need I say more? Monthly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 6, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776.

• **Jeff Cohen's Fantasy Federation** (August-Sept. 1992): Very well-written column by Jeff analyzing why there are no more great tag-teams; Fantasy matches featuring **Rick Steiner** vs. **The Missing Link**, **Cowboy Bill Watts** vs. **Dusty Rhodes**, **Terry Funk** vs. **Kerry Von Erich**, **Barry Windham** vs. **Randy Savage**, **Andre the Giant** vs. **The Undertaker** and **Roddy Piper** vs. **Sting**. Bi-monthly; \$1 an issue. 50 Shelley Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023.

• **Georgiann Makropolous' Wrestling Chatterbox** (July 1992): Twenty-page issue featuring a reprint of a newspaper article about a man suing **Animal of The Legion of Doom** for an alleged assault in a Baltimore bar; More news and notes than in recent issues. Monthly; \$2.50 an issue. 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102-3252.

• **Evan Ginzburg's Wrestling Then and Now** (June 1992): A wrestling history of the **Von Erichs** in St. Louis and of **Billy Graham's** reign as WWWF champion; An interview with wrestling journalist and historian **Dale Pierce**; A reprint of a 1952 article asking if wrestling

matches are "faked." Very amusing. (August 1992): Interview with **Ed Sharkey**, the trainer who taught **Rick Rude**, **The L.O.D.** and many other top stars; A rundown of some historic matches from the early 1900s (**Gordon Solie** was only 60 years old then); Reprint of a *Los Angeles Times* article on the **Slammers Wrestling** gymnasium and its museum. Also enjoyable reading. Bi-monthly; \$1.25 an issue. P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364.

• **Mike Sawyer's Legdrop** (May 4-July 20): Issues 35-38 feature news and reports of New York wrestling radio shows. Issue 38 is especially of note, because it features a photograph of **Hulk Hogan** in a ballerina costume from his upcoming movie *Rough Stuff*. Hogan looks small, old and tired. Frightening. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue. 831 Pasadena Ave., Niagra Falls, NY 14304.

• **Paul Adamovic's Wrestling World Examiner** (April 1-May 26): Issue 25 -- News, insightful column on wrestling in the Pacific Northwest by **Joseph Perry**; Issue 26 -- News, interview with long-time WWF jobber **Gerry Monti**; Issue 27 -- News. Issue 29 -- News, interview with Maryland independent wrestler "**Mr. Hollywood**" **Bob Starr**. Bi-weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 303, Irvington, NY 10533-4303.

• **Steve Sims' Lucha Libre Weekly** (July 22): Report from the final card of the late spring/early summer EMLL tour that concluded at Arena Mexico; Gobs of AAA and UWA news as well; A must for lucha libre fans. Weekly; \$1 an issue. 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614.

THREE COUNT®

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(Please call between 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays; 11 a.m.-midnight weekends)

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Mushnick, Penthouse Rip WWF

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Mushnick's column asks why Gordon's office has not investigated claims by a 15-year-old boy who said he was sodomized by former WWF announcer and ring crew chief **Mel Phillips** in January 1991. Mushnick says that McMahon admitted to him and another journalist that Phillips had a serious "problem" with young males. "McMahon said he even fired Phillips because of his 'problem,' only to re-hire him on the promise that he stay clear of young boys," Mushnick wrote. Mushnick went on to explain that McMahon denied knowledge of Phillips' sexual habits. Mushnick even mentioned the claims of **Rita Chatterton** (who was not named in *The Post*) that McMahon forced himself upon her, "baiting her with a promise of advancement within the WWF -- a charge corroborated by McMahon's former limo driver and confidant, **Jim Stuart**."

The other main criticism of Gordon concerned why alleged drug use by WWF performers had not been investigated. "Gordon fancies himself an expert on physical conditioning," Mushnick wrote, "Yet, as athletic commissioner, he sat ringside at WWF events for three years -- rubbing elbows with WWF execs -- and it never dawned on him that the hideously overdeveloped bodies of the performers were pumped swollen by steroids? Then, after the (**Dr. George**) **Zahorian** trial proved the obvious, Gordon's office still had nothing to say. It was business as usual, with the WWF."

Mushnick's column, which also reported the athletic commission receives 5.5 percent of the WWF's live gates in New York, has reportedly generated some waves within Gordon's office. Whether action is taken is unknown, however, Mushnick's column should not be underrated. His opinions on the WWF and anabolic steroids in last July's *Post* spurred the WWF to announce it was implementing steroid testing. The WWF is already under investigation by the U.S. attorney's office of the Eastern District of New York on charges the group's employees sexually abused minors and illegally transferred minors across state lines.

However, one has to wonder just how badly the WWF will attempt a legal settlement with the 15-year-old to avoid the public embarrassment of a trial and what could possibly be revealed (if the claims are true). The last time Mushnick wrote about WWF sexual abuse was last February, when he chronicled the claims of former WWF ringbys **Tom Cole** and **Chris Loss**. Cole, who was written about by Savage originally, parlayed publicity from the stories into a \$70,000 settlement from the WWF.

Several sources tell *Three Count* that WWF attorney **Jerry McDevitt** has spoken at least twice to the 15-year-old, who appeared as "Barney" on the Las

Vegas-based *Wrestle Talk* radio show. On the show, "Barney" claimed he was sodomized by Phillips in the parking lot of a WWF card in January 1991. "Barney" said he contacted the WWF, and spoke to two different secretaries about his complaint. He claimed he was told the matter was under investigation. "Barney" also said he met with **Vince McMahon** prior to the WWF owner's appearance on the *Donahue* show, and McMahon told him he needed a favor. "Barney" said he agreed to ask specific questions to the members of the panel being interviewed with McMahon (he was the one wearing a **Lex Luger** T-shirt who asked **Barry Orton** about his prison record on television). In exchange, "Barney" said he was told to call the WWF and ask for media relations director **Steve Planamenta**, who would handle the situation. "Barney" said he called, but only spoke to Planamenta's secretary, who, on his second call, passed on a message to "crawl back under the rock where he came from." Planamenta told *The Wrestling Observer Newsletter* that "Barney" never met with McMahon prior to the *Donahue* show.

The *Penthouse* story makes Mushnick's column look like a puff-piece. Savage, who first reported the claims of sexual abuse made by Cole and Loss, recapped the entire sex scandal, provided a cutting profile of McMahon and wrote about a controversial situation involving **Jimmy Snuka** and the suspicious death of a woman in his hotel room in Whitehall, Penn., in 1983.

Nancy Argentino, the sister-in-law of International Wrestling Federation promoter **Eddy Mansfield**, died of a fractured skull. Snuka's explanation was that she had slipped earlier in the day and hit her head on a guardrail. The case is still open, Savage reports, but the district attorney's office of Lehigh County (Penn.) never pursued the case. **Wayne Snyder**, the coroner who performed the autopsy on Argentino, said there were marks and bruises on her face and other parts of her body. "We have a highly suspicious death, and I don't believe it to be accidental" Snyder said. "This case has to be investigated as a homicide." Savage concludes:

Why wasn't it? Whispers abound.

"Vince McMahon sat with Snuka through the interviews, yes," (Whitehall Township detective Gerry) Procanyn said. "But a cover-up? That's pure unadulterated bullsh-t. There was a full and complete report. C'mon, how would you cover up something like that?"

Savage's story makes it appear the possibility wasn't out of the question. McMahon is profiled in very uncomplimentary terms through the claims of Cole, Loss, Chatterton, Stuart, "Superstar" **Billy Graham**, **Murray**

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Originally, this column was going to detail my recent problems with the World Wrestling Federation and its attorney, **Jerry McDevitt**. I will offer a brief summary, but I do not want to delve into a lengthy column about it because this is not a personal issue, and I do not want it to become one. I have no questions that my coverage of the WWF has been fair. Often critical, but fair.

McDevitt wrote a letter to *The New York Times* July 21 complaining about my July 12 appearance on the Las Vegas-based *Wrestle Talk* radio show. On the show, hosts **Bill Kunkel** and **Ric Carter** called WWF owner **Vince McMahon** (at my prompting) at home to try and get comment about allegations being leveled by several guests on the show. I made the suggestion, and proceeded to

Alex Marvez



call McMahon's butler "**Lerch**" when we could not reach McMahon. The action was immature, but I still do not regret attempting to reach McMahon for comment. I just should have shown better judgement and not ridiculed McMahon's butler. My apologies to *The Times* and the McMahon residence. Unfortunately, the WWF has yet to respond to any allegations made on the show, but I think we have all come to expect that by now.

• Some more personal notes to discuss. When I returned to Gainesville August 9, there were more than 40 letters in my P.O. Box that were not forwarded by my good friends at the University Station post office. This means that some of you have been waiting for either a newsletter or a response to correspondence. I am very sorry about the delay. I placed a forwarding address on my mail a week before I left, yet I was receiving mail daily throughout the summer. Also, for those who wrote either letters of complaint, need photos returned or asked questions that were not for publication, all that will be taken care of in the next couple weeks. Please be patient.

• **Three Count** finally has a phone line established. The number is 904-372-1735. Please call between the designated hours on Page 2 with any questions, complaints, reports or death threats.

• This newsletter was mailed August 18. A new issue will be mailed before August 21, and will feature a Summer Slam preview, **Carlos Rey's** *Reporte de Lucha Libre*, **John Patton's** *Patton, In General*, a live report from WCW's August 15 show in Jacksonville, and a yet-to-be-determined interview. Thus, the Friday printing schedule will truly go into effect August 28. The September 4 issue will be a double issue (Issues 47-48), and will feature **John Muse's** diary of his trip to Japan. See ya' in a couple of days.

Briefly

• **Masa Chono** defeated **Rick Rude** August 12 to win the National Wrestling Alliance title tournament in Tokyo, Japan. WCW will not release the outcomes of the other tournament matches, but **Three Count** will attempt to find them for Issue 45. A Chono-Rude rematch should take place this fall, possibly on WCW's Halloween Havoc pay-per-view show.

• **Ron Simmons** vs. **Cactus Jack** will headline WCW's Clash of the Champions September 2 emanating from Center Stage in Atlanta's CNN Center. The show will highlight 20 years of wrestling on TBS, with **Gordon Solie** introducing clips of matches that have aired on the network. WCW is bringing in several personalities notable for their time during the era, including **Mr. Wrestling I** (Tim Woods), **Thunderbolt Patterson** and announcer **Freddie Miller**.

A complete line-up for the show was not available at press time, but an eight-man tag-team match is slated between **Jake Roberts-Big Van Vader-Super Invader-Rick Rude** vs. **Sting-Nikita Koloff-Rick and Scott Steiner**. Also, **Bobby Eaton-Arn Anderson** vs. **Dick Slater-Greg Valentine** (more on that later) and **Steve Austin** defending the WCW television title against **Ricky Steamboat**.

• **Larry Zbyszko** will manage Slater-Valentine on the Clash, with the angle that he "hired" the team to gain revenge on Eaton-Anderson for breaking his arm. **Paul E. Dangerously** will be suspended above the ring in a cage for this match.

• The Clash should mark the last time Dangerously manages Eaton and Anderson as a tag-team. **Michael Hayes** will begin managing the duo this fall to promote an upcoming heel vs. heel feud against **Steve Williams** and **Terry Gordy**. The angle has Dangerously selling the contracts of Eaton and Anderson to Hayes. Hayes will then say that he knows a chink in the armor of his former partner, Gordy, which will be the key to Anderson and Eaton winning the WCW tag-team titles. Hayes managed Eaton and Anderson August 16 at a WCW television taping in Atlanta.

• Other news from the WCW taping, held before 6,700 people at the Omni (kids were admitted free with some sort of gimmick, but the number is still impressive): Slater-Valentine-**The Barbarian** defeated **Dutsin Rhodes-Barry Windham-Ricky Steamboat** when Valentine pinned Windham; Sting defeated **Jake Roberts** via disqualification in a match very similar to the one held the previous evening in Jacksonville; **Marcus Bagwell** pinned **Scotty Flamingo**. Cactus Jack defeated Rhodes via countout. Roberts was on his way to the ring for his match after Rhodes was counted out, and began destroying The Natural while Jack held the referee at bay.

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Morgan-Estrada Begin Midget Feud

*Editor's note: Reporte de Lucha Libre will be completely up-to-date in next week's issue. Production difficulties (which have since been corrected) caused a delay in **Three Count's** publication.*

I am happy to say I am able to report on two good AAA shows that appeared on Galavision on July 19 and July 26. Let's begin with the July 19 telecast.

1) The technico team of **Winners-Super Calo-Rey Misterioso Jr.** defeated **El Magnate-Marabunta-Psicosis** via disqualification on two-of-three falls. This was the first Galavision appearance of Psicosis and Misterioso, and to say they were great is an understatement.

Carlos Rey

Psicosis works very well, and Misterioso's moves are something lucha aficionados must check out. In the first fall, Misterioso pinned Marabunta, Calo pinned Psicosis and Winners did a lance (jump over the top rope to outside the ring) onto Magnate, leaving the rudo unable to answer the count. The falls were then evened, as Psicosis pinned Misterioso with the other rudos holding the technicos legs, Winners submitted to a Psicosis figure-four leg-lock (with the rudos holding both his arms) and Calo was unable to answer the bell. The third fall had a disappointing finish, with Marabunta kicking Calo into referee El Tirantes, causing the disqualification.

2) Another technico victory, only this time in a midgets match as **Angelito Azteca-Octagoncito-Mascarita Sagrada** defeated **Picudito-Jerrito Estrada-Piratita Morgan** in three falls. In the first fall, Estrada forced Octagoncito to submit, Morgan pinned Sagrada and Picudito pinned Azteca. The technicos answered with Azteca pinning Estrada, Octagoncito pinning Picudito and Morgan unable to answer the count after a lance by Sagrada (who is under four feet tall; pretty amazing, huh?). Three more lances in the third fall left the rudos unable to answer the count. After the match, Estrada and Morgan began brawling and had to be separated. *The Wrestling Observer Newsletter* says neither Estrada and Morgan will be turning technico, but will have an rudo vs. rudo feud.

3) Finally, a rudo victory as **La Parca-Rambo-Ice Killer** defeated **Angel Azteca-Galactico-Panterita del Ring** in three falls. This was also the AAA debut of Panterita from EMLL (who was very good) and Rambo from the UWA (who had a ton of heat). The technicos took the first fall when Azteca pinned Rambo, Galactico pinned Killer and Panterita pinned Parca. The rudos won the second fall as Parca pinned Panterita, Galactico

submitted to Rambo and Killer pinned Azteca. The third fall came down to Rambo vs. Panterita. Panterita did some great moves, but Rambo won the fall.

4) The technico team of **Conan-El Hijo del Santo-Octagon** defeated rudos **Cien Caras-Blue Panther-Jerry Estrada** in two-of-three falls. The pairings in this bout indicate the match was a total brawl. Heating things up further was the appearance of Conan's rival, **El Cobarde**. The first all ended when Octagon pinned Estrada with Santo's help, Conan pinned Caras with Octagon's help and Blue Panther conceded the fall by not entering the ring. The rudos came back in the next fall. Panther pinned Octagon (and had his mask pulled half-way off several times as well), Estrada rendered Conan out of action and Caras pinned Santo. The third fall had tons of heat, and ended with a technico victory. Octagon pinned Estrada and Santo pinned Panther with a beautiful pinning combination. A great main event.

And on July 26:

1) Technicos Super Calo-Panterita-Rey Misterioso Jr. defeated **La Rosa-Psicosis-El Indomito** via disqualification in three falls. This match also featured some new talent with El Indomito from the UWA. The technico team has some fantastic workers, but for a very apparent reason, the man who steals this show is my favorite young wrestler, Calo. The first fall saw Panterita make Rosa submit, Calo pin Psicosis and Misterioso render Indomito out of action. It became even when Rosa pinned Misterioso with Psicosis' help, Calo submitting to Psicosis and Panterita left out of the ring. The third fall featured some amazing action between Misterioso and Psicosis. The match ended when Indomito pulled out handcuffs, cuffed Panterita to the ropes and beat him senseless. There wasn't a bad worker in this bout.

2) Another inconclusive finish, this time a draw between rudo teams **Pequeno Cobarde-Espectrito-Piratita Morgan** vs. **Jerrito Estrada-Picudito-Parcita**. This was an extension of the Estrada vs. Morgan feud. In the first fall, Picudito pinned Morgan, Estrada made Espectrito submit and Parcita made Cobarde submit. Things were evened when Espectrito pinned Estrada (the technico team captain, thus ending the fall). Picudito then made Cobarde submit, Espectrito made Picudito submit, Parcita and Espectrito knocked themselves out of the ring and Morgan and Estrada did the same, leaving the match a draw. This was a good match.

3) **El Misterioso-El Volador-Angel Azteca** (technicos) defeated **La Parca-Rambo-Herodes** in two-of-

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Carlos Rey has video tapes of Galavision shows available. Write to him at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah FL 33012 for more information.

"B.J.'s" Booking Sinking WWF

Listening to **The Undertaker** denounce **Papa Shongo** as a villainous representative of the forces of death and darkness can't help but have the moral force of **Xaviera Hollander** dissin' **Elvira** for using sex to get herself over. If Titan Sports only had a brain -- and **Bobby Heenan**, as good as he is as what he does, is NOT that particular Brain -- this angle could have been sold with at least a semblance of dignity and logic.

You want to get Undertaker over? Then these should be his comments re Papa Shongo: "When I first came here to wrestle in the WWF against ... mortals ... I was ... much misunderstood. Because of what I repre-

Bill Kunkel

sented, I was instinctively feared and shunned. It was only when TRUE evil reared its head, and I was called to be the force that banished it, that the wrestlers ... and you -- the fans -- came to understand that my appearance and nature are no more of my making than are yours."

The crowd grows silent.

"Death is a natural part of life. What is a book without an ending? A movie without a climax? A beginning without an end? I am a part of the natural force, yet I am no more evil than the wind which sparks fire. I am an agent of powers which you can not yet understand. The Undertaker, like death, is a part of the natural order of all things.

"To the good things of this world, I bring them rest in peace." A pause. "To the evil things -- REST IN PIECES."

And, at the risk of sounding like Bowdren the

Booker, the crowd pops. Subsequent interviews expand upon this theme.

"I will not stand by and see the natural process degraded by the perversity of a Papa Shongo, who uses the secrets denied to other mortals to enslave them, to confuse them, to make them puppets.

"THIS IS A MOCKERY OF ALL THAT IS RIGHT AND NATURAL IN THE UNIVERSE! It is my duty to end this monstrosity. At Summer Slam, I will perform the service for which I was created! Papa Shongo: Rest in pieces!"

Is this so crazy? I don't think so. But one gets the impression that the guys at Titan are letting **Big John** (an inflatable male sex doll alleged by several former WWF ringboys to have been a source of great boyish good-humor at Titan Tower) or maybe **Rocco** run the organization. All the creativity is invested in smoke screens, threats and not-so-subtle attempts to bury the truth of its many, many scandals. Wrestling? Angles? Build-ups? They spent MONTHS building up Shongo and Warrior, still have not resolved it, and now both men are fighting other people.

I have never, in all the years of watching the WWF (as distinct from the WWWF) felt so abandoned. I realized they were skewing the promotion toward kids, but they threw me enough bones to keep coming back. Now? Nothing. I remember drawing a cartoon right after **The Ultimate Warrior** beat **Hulk Hogan** at one of those **Wrestlemanias**. It had **Homer and Bart Simpson** watching the match on television, with Homer, of course, cheering for Hogan and Bart supporting the crazed, anarchic Warrior (It still gives me chills when I imagine this character visiting children in hospitals. "Well, he

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Hot Warrior-Savage Angle In WWF

Hello and welcome to *Three Count's* newest feature, a weekly look back at the memorable (and not so memorable) sights and sounds of recent pro wrestling television, a column we would like to call *Patton, in General*. However, before we begin, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is **John Patton**. I am a 20-year-old junior at the University of Florida majoring in journalism. I have been a wrestling fan as long as I can remember. It was approximately two years ago, when I met Alex through a letter I wrote to *The Miami Herald*, that I became knowledgeable about the inner workings of the mat game.

John Patton

Each week, we hope to present an insightful and entertaining look at the television shows that shape the business. I would like to thank my newspaper teacher from a few years back, **Mrs. Kizer**, for the title of the column. I would also like to give special thanks to Alex for the opportunity. And, of course, several of the correspondents who are helping comprise the round-up. So far, **Tim Whitehead** is providing our Smokey Mountain Wrestling summaries. Weekly coverage of IWCCW and NAWA begins next week.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Highlights:

- A decent match between **Ron Simmons** and **Bobby Eaton**, ending with Simmons pinning Eaton after a powerslam (*World Wide Wrestling*, July 25).

- A good match between **Rick Rude** and **Nikita Koloff**, culminating with a wild locker room brawl involving various babyfaces and heels. Rude won the bout via an over-the-top-rope disqualification (*WWW*, 7/25).

- A very solid interview by **Sting** (yes, you read that right) with **Tony Schiavone** discussing his recent title loss and future goals (*WCW Saturday Night*, 7/25).

Lowlights:

- An incredibly bad interview by **Harley Race** where he, when running down the list of challengers to **Big Van Vader's** title, named **Ricky Steamboat** twice. I know this may sound like nit-picking and Race is a legend, but I hate his interviews. They look totally unrehearsed (*WCW Main Event*, 7/26).

- A two-minute squash by **The Barbarian** over **Marcus Alexander Bagwell**. So much for trying to build young talent (*Main Event*, 7/26).

Somewhere in between:

- A disappointing (and short) six-man tag-team match featuring **Greg Valentine-Steve Austin-Cactus Jack** vs. **Dustin Rhodes-Barry Windham-Johnny B. Badd**. Rhodes pinned Valentine after Slater's interference backfired (*WCW Sat. Night*, 7/25).

What was said:

- **Jim Ross** plugged his hotline by saying he had knowledge of a rumor involving **Hulk Hogan**.

- **Schiavone** plugged **Missy Hyatt's** hotline by saying that she had some juicy details about **Madusa's** private life. He then added Madusa and Missy have a lot in common, especially when it comes to their private lives.

What wasn't said:

- "Let's hook 'em up!" Not once all weekend.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Highlights:

- An effective face-to-face interview segment/angle involving **The Ultimate Warrior** (it looks like we can start calling him **The Anabolic Warrior** again), **Randy Savage**, and later, **Ric Flair** and **Mr. Perfect**. It began with Warrior, Savage and **Gene Okerlund** on a platform hyping the Summer Slam main event (Savage vs. Warrior) when Flair and Perfect entered the ring approximately 50 feet away. Flair and Perfect took turns addressing each man on the microphone. It was here that Flair came up with one of the better lines of the year: "Warrior, big boy, I've been beating up guys with paint on their face my whole career." Perfect then did an impression of Savage, calling him the "Macho Chicken."

Savage then took off toward the ring and was immediately double-teamed. The Warrior then made the save, picked up the fallen WWF title and handed it to an unappreciative (and heel-like) Savage. They nearly came to blows, but **J.J. Dillon** and **The New Four Horsemen** (led by "The Enforcer" **Rene Goulet**) came to the rescue by separating the two. During the angle, I noticed **Curt Hennig** did his best to avoid any rough or potentially rough situations. Warrior and Savage also stayed away from him. This could mean they are just being cautious or Hennig is still not ready to take bumps yet (All WWF telecasts, 7/25-7/27).

- An entertaining match with **The Nasty Boys** taking on **Jim Powers** and **Jim Brunzell**. The Nasties won with a double DDT pin on Powers (*Prime Time Wrestling*, 7/27).

Lowlights:

- The constant reminders that the "big" (and I use that term loosely) Body Star Wars event is upcoming. In case you watch WWF television with the volume off, it is

Patton, In General

a tug-of-war between five medium-sized professional wrestlers and five steroid, err, ICO-Pro chomping body-builders. Who cares? The saddest thing about the entire event is **Vince McMahon** forced Flair to be a part of it.

- **The Legion of Doom** (and their doll, **Rocco**) squashed **Richie Rich** and **Flex Armstrong**. There was nothing wrong with this match, but I want to know why the supposed toughest tag-team in the world, the guys who "snack on danger, dine on death" still play with dolls.

Somewhere in between:

- A match between **Shawn Michaels** and **Kerry Von Erich**. Most of this match was stalling, with Michaels outside the ring and Von Erich in it. Michaels antics were the best thing about this match. At the finish, Michaels legitimately busted his elbow open when landing on his mirror. Oh, by the way, Michaels won via countout and immediately left the building.

What was said:

- **Bobby Heenan's** hilarious defense of **Nailz**, saying he was improperly imprisoned for not having paid three parking tickets in 1973 (*Prime Time*, 7/27).

- "**Virgil** is the most improved wrestler of the '90's." -- **Lord Alfred Hayes**.

- "U.S.A., U.S.A., U.S.A." -- **Jim Duggan** from his disqualification victory over **Repo Man** on *Prime Time* (7/27). The match was taped in Sheffield, England.

What wasn't said:

- A single word about the *Penthouse Magazine* story.

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN WRESTLING (7/26)

By **TIM WHITEHEAD**

Highlights:

- An incident from the 7/19 show was replayed, where **Jimmy Golden** and **Robert Fuller** beat **Robert Gibson** with a belt and cowboy boot. After the clip aired, Gibson appeared and said he was bringing in a new partner to back him up. They then played a taped segment from **Ricky Morton**, who said he has made a lot of mistakes and lost a lot of friends over the past year, but was now ready to rejoin Gibson as **The Rock -N- Roll Express**.

After all this, Golden and Fuller were interviewed. Golden asked commissioner **Bob Armstrong** if he was going to allow a wrestler from "way down in Atlanta or somewhere) to just walk right into SMW and form a team with Gibson. Armstrong replied Morton was welcome, prompting Fuller to say Armstrong had just signed Morton's "death warrant."

- The interview segment *Down And Dirty With Dutch* featured an interview with **The Dirty White Boy**. The interview was conducted behind an old abandoned school bus (supposedly White Boy's home) in an automobile graveyard, allegedly in Bucksnort, Tenn. White

Boy discussed his upcoming loser leaves town match against **Brian Lee**.

- **The Heavenly Bodies** (**Stan Lane** and **Tom Pritchard**) defeated **Hector Guerrero** and **Ben Jordan** in the television main event. After the match, The Bodies blindsided Jordan and **Jim Cornette** tied him up with barbed wire as a message to **The Fantastics** about their upcoming barbed wire match. The Fantastics made the save.

- Clips were shown of **Paul Orndorff** and **Ron Garvin** promoting their "piledriver" match, where a pinfall can only be scored following a piledriver.

- A taped interview with **Davey Rich** was aired, with Rich vowing revenge on Cornette for his broken leg.

Somewhere in between:

- Three squash matches -- The Fantastics d. **Joe Cazana-Gary Scott**, Brian Lee d. **The Stormtrooper** and **Tim Horner** d. **Paul Lee**.

What was said:

- **Dutch Mantell** said Brian Lee had a 4.0 average in college. Not in grades, but in blood-alcohol content.

Media Slams WWF

(Continued from Page 3)

Hodgson (the former WBF ring announcer who claims he was fired because he refused to have a sexual affair with former WWF booker **Pat Patterson**), **Orton**, **Billy Jack Haynes** and **Eric Tovey** (a.k.a. **Lord Littlebrook**, the former midget wrestler who says the WWF would not promote his proteges after he wrote a letter complaining of front-office members sexually harassing them). **Hulk Hogan** was also blasted, with **Shults**, **Graham** and **Haynes** levying claims that the former WWF champion was a cocaine and anabolic steroid user. **Shults** claims Hogan "sold a potpourri of drugs throughout the '80's, and was known in wrestling circles as the 'Tampa pipeline.'"

There were some new allegations levied and stories revealed in the piece. **Stuart** says McMahon has done cocaine in the back of his limo before. McMahon is reportedly called "Caesar" by wrestlers behind his back (**Savage**, who knew little about wrestling before beginning work on a **Graham** feature story last November, described McMahon as a "tall and muscular narcissist with a husky voice, slicked-back hair, and **Norman Bates** eyes who swaggers through head winds and charms the most unsuspecting dupes."). **Mike Clark**, a former WWF referee, recounts a personal story of alleged sexual harassment by former WWF booking assistant **Terry Garvin**. Also, the alleged sexual actions of Garvin, **Phillips**, **Patterson** and McMahon are recounted in much more vivid detail than ever before.

Spotlight on: Bill Watts

*Very little explanation is needed for this double issue's Spotlight subject. **Bill Watts**, the former owner of the highly popular Universal Wrestling Federation, became the executive vice president of World Championship Wrestling May 12, and has already implemented a totally different direction of where WCW is heading. The following interview was conducted July 15 via telephone. Excerpts appeared in the July 26 issue of The Miami Herald.*

AM: Let's start by asking if you're happy with the progress you have made in WCW so far.

BW: I think we're getting an awful lot more intensity and effort out of our talent. The NWA tag-team tournament ... How do you run two pay-per-view shows within three-and-a-half weeks of each other? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that's a disaster. I still wanted to have a quality product. I thought the best match was the first one (**Brian Pillman-Jushin Lyger vs. Ricky Steamboat-Nikita Koloff**).

It takes a long time to get things executed. The way it turned out, we got the WCW and NWA tag-team titles on the same team (**Steve Williams-Terry Gordy**). I would like to consolidate some of this stuff and get down to one title. I don't think the direction of resurrecting the NWA was a great move. It kind of confuses things. To have dropped the NWA name in the first place was a bad move, because people see it representing the most established organization with the most established champion as far as long-term establishment goes. But when I got here, we had done this, setting up with New Japan (Pro Wrestling, WCW's partner in Japan) primarily for the big singles tournament in Tokyo. I'm interested with working with New Japan. Looking at the world of pro wrestling, they're doing things right over there. They're real excited about the tournament. We got things solved with **Ric Flair** to get the belt back ...

AM: How much was that settlement for?

BW: About \$28,500. It was fair. I've known Ric for a long time. I just called him up and asked what was the deal. He told me, and that was the basis of working things out. I don't want to see the thing drag on. We're just going to shut the door and go on forward. I think Ric Flair is a fantastic athlete. I like Ric Flair. Why not call him? I didn't want to do the tournament with a belt that's not the real deal. Getting it back was a positive move.

AM: Speaking of the NWA tournament, **Jim Neidhart** is slated to wrestle in Japan. Does that mean a future WCW appearance is upcoming?

BW: Jim has been talking to us, but we have no agreement or immediate plans. The first thing I did when I got here was look at the contracted talent and evaluate it. I'm very excited about our talent. We've got **Sting**, **Rick Rude**, **The Steiners**, Doc (Williams) and Gordy, **Steve Austin**, **Ron Simmons** ... I'm real excited. I think the thing to do is redirect some of the talent. It's going to take a long time. When I got here, they already had a month of television in the can. Now, we're trying to get

closer to getting things on television closer to when the event happened. The results of the Bash played on our shows the week after. When the two titles changed in the Omni (July 5), the results were in syndication the next week.

Somebody showed me one of your columns (from *The Miami Herald*) and what you said about **Dick Slater** and **The Barbarian** (Editor's note: I wrote how ridiculous it was for Watts to emphasize a kay fabe atmosphere when he himself committed a violation. Slater and Barbarian won the U.S. tag-team titles June 25 in Kansas City, Kan., from **The Freebirds**. Over that weekend, WCW decided to eliminate the titles in an effort to consolidate their championships. The decision was announced June 29 at a WCW television taping in Atlanta. On that same show, Slater and Barbarian did an interview stating how much they *hoped* to become the final U.S. tag-team champs *after* they had won the titles. The reason for the interview was to keep WCW storylines in sequence for television). I made a bad decision. I don't see the value of the U.S. tag-team titles or why we should emphasize it more. The rule about kay fabe on the airplane (i.e. babyfaces and heels not being allowed to travel together) ... I got on an airplane for a television shoot in Kansas City, and the whole card was on it. God forbid the plane crashes or has some sort-of mechanical failure. All I said was I wanted everybody to split up, and the most logical split is between opponents, where one takes the early flight and one the late flight. I don't think you should put all your eggs in one basket. That's basically the reason why we made the change in airline scheduling.

Some of the other changes are a bit more traditional. A lot of it has been misunderstood. Like removing the mats at ringside. I made a macho statement about it because we're going to be different from the WWF. I think **Vince McMahon** is a genius. But, I don't agree with his concept of pro wrestling. I think it is a macabre cartoon strip come to life. I think some of the things he has done are truly great and should be emulated. I think he's a great marketer.

But back to the mats ... First off, in all the years of wrestling, the first place they ever used pads around the floor was in Japan. It was the most dangerous thing to ever happen. If you hit a seem, there goes your ankle or knee or leg. If something is spilled on the stuff, it becomes super slippery. You should always want to land on the concrete. I also want to get the wrestling back into

Spotlight on: Bill Watts

the ring. At ringside, there isn't a riser section. You have to stand to see the fighting on the floor. It's a macho statement to say we don't have mats around the ring. But you have to look beyond that statement. None of the wrestlers have complained about the mats.

We're going to have some rules. You can't enforce everything, but things like running a guys head into a steel post. For what? And no throwing a guy into the barricades. My barricades were made to come with the ring. Most aren't. We've got guys going into the barricades. What if one of them tips over and crushes somebody? That's an easy way to get an automatic disqualification. They did metal barricades in Florida in 1973 to create a buffer zone to get the fan contact out. We have a system of fines, and any sports organization has that. When a guy makes obscene gestures in the ring or shoots the fans the finger, I can't condone it. I don't think you should say f-ck and mother f-cker to the fans. It's just a matter of discipline. Take hitting in the balls. Before, during every match, some one got hit in the balls. When I played football and wrestled and got hit in the balls, I got so damn sick because I felt like I was going to puke. So I said, "All right boys. If hitting in the balls is that important, it will cost you \$1,000 the first shot, \$2,500 the second and \$5,000 the third, and you may be in breach of contract. I am always going to reserve the right to define "breach of contract." They got the message real quick, and I don't think that without it there is a lower quality of a match. The top rope rule has been so controversial so far. I think it's great.

The reason World Championship Wrestling's ratings went down is because they decided to start copying the WWF. Even after research of our fans was done in 1991 that said people didn't want that, the search was ignored. People I talk to say they miss high-impact wrestling. I'm not trying to move wrestling back 20 years. I want to have a high-intensity work rate with the talent. They want pride for their work, and they can have it again. They're not going to have to be somebody's lackey where they get paid a salary no matter what.

You can't do seven pay-per-view telecasts a year. The theory to me is WCW was grasping at straws because they were losing in every department. If you check the buy rates, the last few shows indicate that fans felt nothing was special. And any arena that generated revenue became a television shoot. You shoot five hours of matches and bore the shit out of everybody. What does it do to the fan who bought a ringside ticket when the person next to him has a freebie? They destroyed a lot of good markets like that. There are still a lot of problems.

It has been three years of something being dragged into the dumps. I want to see how the talent responds. I thought **Big Van Vader** vs. Sting was a hell of a match. You certainly have to respect the athleticism of the Steiners vs. Doc and Gordy. Those four all think the same. They have a bulldog tenacity no matter what.

The first two or three weeks I got here, I wanted to see some shows in person and see what type of damage was done to the fans and what they respond to. A bad mistake they did at TBS was not provide a wrestling fan a forum. I wanted to see what they think and what made them come out. When the guys in the media write ... You all love the sport so damn much, I think you are so disgusted with being bull-sh-ted and lied to that you've become so damn cynical. There has been some totally erroneous stuff that has been written, because people have fallen in that habit. But whatever the media writes is all right. They have the right to do it. I don't look down on anybody, and I never criticize a guy just

because he is not in the wrestling business. Whatever your love of the sport is, it's your opinion. To me, it's still a feedback. It doesn't mean I'm going to change direction.

It's taken us some time to get into a position where we can have a run. We have to rebuild our credibility with the fans. There wasn't a card last year that had everybody in the company booked on it at once. Can you believe that? If you want to rebuild, you have to eliminate the no-shows and the bad product. Look at what happened to **Jim Crockett** when he ran the Meadowlands. We have to realize the fans are driven to spend their entertainment dollars among a bunch of competing sports. The fans are not going to come out and get screwed night after night. It kind of reminded me about an old promoter from the Carolinas who is used to here stories about. His name was **Bill Lewis**, but that isn't important. He would come out to the audience and say, "How many of you would like to see **Argentina Rocca**." Well, Rocca was a Northeastern wrestler who wasn't a big deal there, so the fans booed. He then told the crowd, "Well, you're going to see him anyway." That's the kind of promotion it was here. I remember Ric Flair was cheered for everything he did. Yet they still wanted to promote him as a heel.

There was something else you wrote about, and that's the blood at the War Games. I didn't even know that was going to happen. Traditionally, I wouldn't care. But then I realized that this is bigger than Bill Watts. This is TBS. We can't have Turner Broadcasting be party to something like that. So I said, guys were not going to

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have that. Just like with steroids. I had my kids write a theme when they were younger explaining why I don't want them on steroids. I never took one, and I never featured any guys in my promotion because they were on steroids.

AM: What happens to the steroid policy **Kip Frey** developed?

BW: Most of the policy I agree with, but my predecessor thinks a bonus should be given to the wrestlers for adhering by the policy. That's like saying they will not steal from the company and then giving them a bonus for that. We're going to do steroid testing. The wrestlers said they wanted to know if the policy was serious, and I said it was damn serious. Most guys in any league don't push the parameters too far. I saw a kid in a dressing room in New Orleans a few years back, and it looked like his penis was draining. Like he had VD or something. He said his kidneys were locked from steroids. I told him he was going to die if he didn't get off, and what good would it be for him to be big and dead?

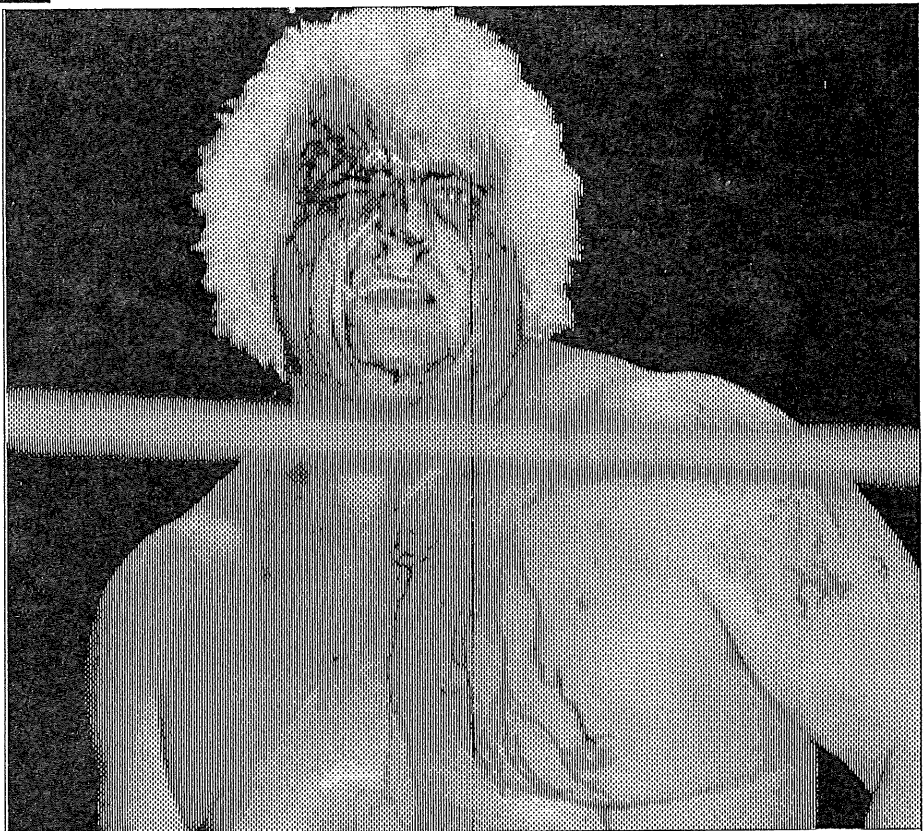
AM: Judging from the pay-per-view show, it appears Ron Simmons will be receiving a big push and eventual feud with Van Vader. Can you talk about that?

BW: Well, you know my history with **The Junkyard Dog**. For us to be a major factor in sports or sports entertainment, we have to have a black star. When every other sport does, it's slap in the face. It's insane. I don't think it's racial. Just stupid. Ron is here, and JYD is working out harder and pulling more weight than he has in a long time. It wasn't a black or white thing with pushing JYD. It was green. Ron, with his background ... what an athlete to open doors for people. I'm a motivator. I love this business. That's what brought me back. I felt like I was handed the keys to a city that has been raped for the past four years by people trying everything to destroy it. It's a great challenge. Many divisions of TBS here were alienated toward past management. We should bring us together. We should set the standard. I don't believe the industry is dead. When I go sit in a crowd, I'm listening to everybody. I've got a lot of love for this sport. To be candid, I think it's a long way from being dead. If anything, there are signs our shows are up-trending. But it is hard to read. I figure it will take eight or nine months to see.

We're looking at our venues and the way we do our syndicated television tapings. It's very important, and we don't do it anymore the way we used to. We had a couple that were too long in Kansas City and Topeka recently. Topeka is a wonderful little town, but it shouldn't be run like that. We need World Wide Wrestling tapings, but I don't think it will be a real conflict if run correctly. Like do 11 matches on each of two shows. At Center Stage now, people are lining up and turning away. Before, they had to have drawings to fill the place up. That will tell you something.

AM: What is **Dusty Rhodes'** status in the company now that you're in charge of the booking?

BW: What happened before was the booker's duty was to load the PPV according to a theme. Dusty is a creative guy who was pushed beyond his creativity. He has been maligned a lot for the bikini contest a few weeks back. They were the ones who came up with the Beach Blast thing five months earlier. I think under those conditions, the direction on top changed from day to day. Dusty said once that they gave him seven new dolls and told him they wanted to see guys that look like these dolls. If you were blind before I got here and you watched our TV, you would think that all we sold was a 900 number or a magazine or something an announcer was doing.. Our product is wrestling.



Was Dusty Rhodes overloaded with work during his tenure as World Championship Wrestling's booker? Bill Watts thinks so, and says Rhodes' creativity was stifled by the hierarchy at Turner Broadcasting Systems. Photo courtesy of Gary Penn.

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The bikini contest was what he inherited, and I feel Dusty did a fantastic job at Beach Blast. I was so disgusted with the (June 16) Clash of Champions taping, where nobody knew the new date was wrong. Here's a Clash designed to promote Beach Blast taped before it and telecast after it. But **Scott Steiner** did have a knee wrap at the PPV. I remember you writing about that (in *The Herald*). It's sometimes easy to Monday morning quarterback, but you have the right to. The NWA tournament, by the nature of a tournament, unless there is tremendous interest, is a hard, hard thing to sell. The last team wrestled three times at the Bash.

The Dusty Rhodes situation is a funny thing. The first thing is I didn't come here to beat up anybody. I have a long relationship with Dusty. But sometimes you tell somebody something that hurts their ego or feelings and you stop talking. I've always recognized Dusty as a talent. I know his strong points. Like me, he's done all phases of the wrestling business. I understood how impossible it was for him to be a success here. He could only take his pay and work from day to day. Nobody knew I was coming in. Dusty was the first guy I wanted to talk to. When I first walked in, Dusty knew in his heart that me coming here was either a blessing or a curse. I walked right in and hugged him. I've taken away his excuses, and he has somebody who he can sound off on and help implement his final decision and direction. Dusty has his job based on performance. He has to perform. **Eddie Graham** was so influential in forming both our careers.



Eddie Gilbert, a Bill Watts protege currently wrestling and booking in Memphis, will likely not enter WCW as long as Dusty Rhodes remains Watts' assistant. Photo: Dr. Mike Lano.

Roy Shires, Verne Gagne and Vince McMahon Sr. all rounded my career. Dusty was in all that. He understands the business in the same way. He is a tremendously creative person. Another creative person is **Jim Ross**. In a lot of ways, he's no different than Dusty. He has a tremendous ego, but he's willing to pay the price to back it up. When you look at guys like Dusty and Jim and think their ego driven, you forget what they put into their product 24 hours a day. Jim understands TV from every aspect. We've finally elevated him to being a division head where he is in charge and responsible. There is a method to my madness.

AM: With you coming to WCW, there was some initial speculation you might bring one of your proteges, **Eddie Gilbert**, with you. Where does that situation stand?

BW: Eddie Gilbert is a creative kid, but there's no chance of that at this point. Eddie wouldn't fit in with Dusty, but he's doing a beautiful job in Memphis. I've got to come in and make sure that even though the job is yours, you have a clear way to run it without any interference. I know what motivates Dusty and understand some of the problems he faces. Now, he's allowed to be creative the way he could be. The same can be said for Jim Ross. Now, he's no longer just an announcer. Now he's a department head as well. He has to produce. He can't just say "Damn it" any more. He's part of it. We all have to do this together as a team. **David Crockett** called me when I got here, and we had breakfast. He picked up one of your guys deals (newsletters) and read he was fired. Can you imagine what his feelings are right now? I have no axe to grind with David. He has a great ability to get things done on location. He's very serious and helpful. I didn't come here to grind old axes. I came to take the people with a knowledge of the business and, for once, affect the way the company is run. There is a lot of knowledge here.

AM: Let me run another name by you: **Jim Cornette**.

BW: When I saw **Jerry Jarrett** in Memphis, I saw Jim Cornette and I wanted to walk out of the crowd and smack him. That's money. But Jarrett was going with **Jimmy Hart**, so I asked if I could get Cornette. He said I could have him. In the opening match that night was a kid named Eaton. Later on, there was somebody named Condrey. Then this became a money-making deal. I already had gotten the **Rock -n- Roll Express** from Jarrett because he was going with **The Fabulous Ones** on top. There were videos made, and these kids made an immediate impact. They appealed to a younger age group that was a demographic we had really down-trended in. **Bill Dundee** came over, too, and he brought a new level to things.

AM: Have you had a chance to see Smokey Mountain Wrestling yet?

Spotlight on: Bill Watts

BW: No, and I wish I was more up-to-date than I am. I'm so far behind in what I'm trying to do. With **Terry Taylor**, all I've done is send out the mandatory notice I was not going to renew his contract, which is called for by his contract. But I have scheduled a meeting with him. I talked with Terry last night. He is a great talent. I've always had him in situations he could handle, and he always did well. The problem is we have more talent than we can use. We have certain parameters. We've got rebuild, and we need a chance to make a profit. Terry is one like **Ricky Morton**. I thought they were in the wrong role. So I've told Ricky to take six months wrestling somewhere else and we'll bring him back in a different way.

AM: Is there a chance of WCW returning to Miami anytime soon?

BW: We're very interested in Miami, but our TV syndication has horrible clearance. We're looking into it. We've got **Jim Barnett** on the road trying to clear stations, and **Rob Garner** is working on it, too. We're meeting with Turner programming services to make them an ally. Turner is a sleeping giant. We're trying to figure out how to access it.

AM: When you first took this job, some people wondered how you would fit into TBS's corporate structure. What is it like so far?

BW: I'm used to making decisions, bang, and going with them. But I feel responsible for Turner's money as if it were my own. This is a new venture for a lot of us. **Bob Dhue** is a sharp guy on the rise. He has a great track record in the Omni. He knows what wrestling was to that facility. But I can't have him embarrassed and all in favors from other building managers when we can't draw now. **Bill Shaw**, he's the head of it all. He's a very bright person, very straight shooting and straight forward. He's very candid. I wondered, too, because people said I would not be able to fit into corporate America. But so far, I'm excited about what's here. I just have to learn the ropes and reach out to people in TBS on a personal basis. That's what so great about Shaw and Dhue. They already know all these people.

AM: Getting back to steroids for a minute, do you have an idea when testing would be implemented?

BW: Everything in the policy looked fine to me except the bonus clause. I've already told the guys to get off the 'roids. We want this to be voluntary. The first time someone is found with steroids in their body, they will be fined, but helped and shown alternative ways of not having to use them and the danger of steroids. I already had one meeting where the guys were told this. The guys I could see are visibly abusers I've talked to one-on-one. I don't tolerate drugs or steroids.

I can't be everything to everyone. If I make a mistake, hell, I'll admit it. I've been so busy since I've got

here, I've had to put a sack on the phone to block incoming calls. I still have calls from about 50 guys I personally need to answer. The first two or three months here you're still trying to figure out who's answering to you. In the old days, you just had to address the talent. This is a tremendous re-organization process. I'm still trying to fine-tune it.

AM: Are you thinking about possibly consolidating several of the syndicated programs WCW turns out each week?

BW: Not until I understand the situation better, because everyone has an effective revenue stream. World Wide (Wrestling) and WCW Saturday Night are going to be are lead vehicles, and everything else is supportive in a spin-off form. The product is getting much better, at least as far as it relates to what we're trying to do. I'm not infallible. We, as a team, are not infallible. We're going to make mistakes. You often see a match on paper that looks good, but it doesn't draw. It's really hard to read our fans, because many of them have become so skeptical to our product. When they go to the live matches, they shouldn't have to wonder if the champion is going to be there or if the scheduled match is going to be there. If a wrestler is hurt, unless he's ambulatory, is going to be there. They may boo that night and say it's bullsh-t, but at least we flew them there.

There's one more thing I wanted to address, and that was the referee situation. The referee used to work as part of the front office, and you couldn't treat him like a piece of sh-t. But the referees in this company were over-worked and had no authority. They were just trying to survive and get along. If you're going to program an effective change, you need a guy who's smart like a coach, a guy in the ring who won't take anybody's bullsh-t. **Ole Anderson's** job as referee is just to try and do it as good as he could do it. I needed somebody believable. If I were to hire someone **Pee Wee Anderson's** size, the wrestlers would tell him to go f-ck himself. I wish I had three of Ole. Maybe once in a while he could move around more, but as I've said, I don't want the referee becoming the cause of an outcome of a match. I don't think the fans do, either. They just want the count consistent. In baseball, the umpire may have a strike zone in one way or another. But that's OK if they're consistent in their call. If Ole pats the mat a little slower in his count ... it's more truly a three-second count anyway. It works itself out.

AM: Some have compared him to **Bronco Lubich**.

BW: (Laughs) Oh, I don't think that's fair. Bronco's a funny guy. When he was refereeing in Texas and Fritz (Von Erich) wasn't around, he would only get down to one knee to make a count. At least Ole gets all the way down.

Kamala Wrestles Non-WWF Match

David Krause attended a Great Lakes Wrestling Association card July 11 at Willowick Shopping Center in Willowick, Ohio, held before 350 fans. Results:

1) **Ron Cumberledge** d. **The Bounty Hunter**: Cumberledge, who has been doing jobs for the World Wrestling Federation, is beginning to look very good in the ring. The fans were also very supportive, as Cumberledge is from near-by Euclid, Ohio. He won with a cross body-block off the top rope. **Grade: ****.

2) **Demon of Darkness** d. **The Executioner**: Not much here at all. Demon used a sleeper hold for the finish. **Grade: Dud**.

3) **Thomas Rich** d. **Sam Houston**: Rich first came out and did an interview, turning heel in the process. The bout started slowly because of Rich stalling, but became wild after Houston juiced. Rich pinned Houston with a figure-four leg-lock (and some leverage from the ring ropes). **Grade: ** 1/2**.

4) **Ivan Koloff** d. **Psycho Mike**: In this wild bout, everyone was cheering for psycho. Koloff surprised everyone and won the Great Lakes title after wrapping a chain around the top turnbuckle and slamming Psycho's head into it. **Grade: ** 1/2**.

Jerry Lawler (billing himself as the United States Wrestling Association champion, even though he wasn't) came out for an interview and challenged Uncle Ivan to a title vs. title match, which led to:

5) Lawler DDQ Koloff: Lawler and Koloff were both disqualified for fighting over Koloff's chain in a good, impromptu match. **Grade: ****.

6) **Rockin' Robin** d. **Candi Divine**: Robin won with a modified piledriver. **Geoff Sindelar**, a disc jockey from a local all-sports radio station, was the guest referee. **Grade: ****.

7) **Vladimir Koloff** d. **Tank Sherman**: These are two local wrestlers fighting for the North American title. Koloff won with a school boy with an assist from manager **Mr. Magnificent**. **Grade: * 1/2**.

8) Lawler d. **Kamala** via disqualification: Kamala (yes, the same WWF performer fulfilling his previously scheduled independent appearance) scored the pin after Koloff hit Lawler with a chain, but a second referee came out and finked to the match official to reverse the decision. **Grade: ****.

9) Cumberledge won an 11-man battle royal. Rich and Houston brawled outside the ring and never entered. **Grade: ****.

• **Super correspondent Danny Parris** attended a United States Wrestling Federation show (promoted by **Diane Jones**) in Gastonia, N.C. Match results saw **The Black Scorpion** defeat **The Wild Child** in two straight falls (after the match, Scorpion's manager, **Mr. Leroy**,

got angry at Scorpion, and teamed with **Cruel Connection No. 2** to unmask him. It wasn't **Ric Flair** or **Ole Anderson**; Match was a DUD); **Susie Crougar** d. **Shai Taylor** (-****); **Funktown Kid** d. **Connection No. 2** (*, all for the Kid); **The Bad Boyz** DDQ **Beast Master (Rick Link)**-**Smasher Stone** (*1/4); **Firebreaker Chip (Curtis Thompson)** d. **L.A. Stephens (Larry Stephens)** in 12:45 (*); Scorpion won the main event battle royal (Referee **Mike Somaini**, who was taunted by Mr. Leroy throughout the evening, beat up the manager, which got the biggest pop of the evening).

Notes: The show drew 70 people ... The USWF ran Union, S.C., on August 1 with **Jimmy Valiant** vs. **Ivan Koloff** in the main event, and returns to Gastonia Sept. 19 with Valiant ... **Collie Clay** was scheduled to re-open TBC Sports Pro Wrestling August 8 in Concord, N.C. ... **Greg Price's** South Atlantic Pro Wrestling is planning a television taping later this month after a week-long tour of South Carolina and Georgia in late July. Expect **P.N. News** and **Tommy Rich** to work some future dates ... **Nick O'Neil's** Southern Pro Wrestling is available on Rock Hill, S.C., public access cable ... An arrest warrant was apparently issued for Universal Wrestling Federation owner **Herb Abrams** following the group's June 19 television taping in Spartanburg, S.C. Abrams reportedly failed to pay the company that catered his worker's food, the hotel (Wilson World Motel) where his workers stayed and the WSPA-TV camera crew that taped the show ... **Buddy Porter's** North American Wrestling Alliance will reportedly begin promoting this month ... **Jay Eagle's** National Championship Wrestling is tentatively scheduled to return to the Indian Bingo Parlor in Spartanburg in September. Eagle said he has a two-week tour scheduled for the WINGS promotion in Japan, thanks to **Wahoo McDaniel**, who is working there.

• **The Bad Boys (Billy Brooks-Bret Blair)** won the AWF tag-team championships August 1 in Naranjito, Puerto Rico by defeating **Tom "Chippendale" Brandi** and **Ray Gonzalez**. The Boys, a very solid team from South Florida, recently worked for **Eddy Mansfield's** International Wrestling Federation. Another top-notch South Florida duo, **LeStat** (former Blackheart **Dave Heath** with an **Ann Rice** vampire gimmick) and manager **Luna Vachon**, are also working for the AWF (the promotion that runs opposite the established Capital Sports, a.k.a. World Wrestling Council). On the show, LeStat pinned **Kim Duk**, who wrestled as **Tiger Chung Lee** in the WWF. Other results from the show saw **Hercules Ayala** defend his AWF title by defeating **Hurricane Castillo Jr.**, **Chicky Starr** defeat **Jose Luis Rivera** in a dog-collar match, **El Rockero** vs. **Dr. Terror** end in a draw, **Gino Paoli** defeat **El Galan Mendoza** via DQ and **Invader No. 4** pin **Ricki Sexton**.

Bash Bashing by Sheets Wrong

Dear Alex,

During a title defense, are arrangements made in case the defending champion is severely injured during the match? For example, the **Sting vs. Big Van Vader** scenario last April, when Sting sustained his rib injuries that prevented him from continuing with the match. In a case like that, how do they keep the challenger from winning (especially when he's not supposed to)?

-- Patrick Richmond
Fort Lauderdale, FL

AM: In wrestling jargon, the two competitors would "take it home," i.e. wrap up the match quickly. Had it been Vader who was injured, for example, Sting might have just covered him for the pin. Sting wasn't able to move because of his injuries, so he whispered to the referee, who parlayed the information to Vader, who was bright enough to conclude the match immediately with a screw-job finish (i.e. punching the referee). Other incidents aren't so simple.

The most notable was the final of New Japan's International Wrestling Gran Prix in 1983 between **Hulk Hogan** and **Antonio Inoki**. Inoki was knocked off the ring apron by a Hogan clothesline and sustained a legitimate concussion (which was so severe that he almost died). The referee did not realize something was wrong until after he began counting Inoki outside the ring. Hogan did what he could to break the count, but after Inoki didn't make any serious effort to re-enter the ring, the official counted Inoki (who was supposed to win) out of the ring and awarded the bout to Hogan.



Inoki

Dear Alex,

On May 18, I sent **John Arezzi** a \$15 check for a three month subscription to his *weekly* Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter. To date, I have received only two newsletters, the last one dated June 15.

In my opinion, Mr. Arezzi should take care of his own business affairs before he starts blasting the World Wrestling Federation, **Vince Russo** and **Vince McMahon**. As the old proverbial saying goes, "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones."

-- Chuck Langerman
Runnemede, N.J.

AM: From what I understand, John has resumed regular production of his newsletter after a production problem. He says issues are being produced every 10 days until after his Spotlight convention in late August, after which the weekly schedule will resume.

Dear Alex,

I can't believe the wrestling journalists all see the Great American Bash the same way: as a DUD. Since I do not see this great "superstar" in **Steve Austin** as everyone else does, I hated his match. **Steve Williams-Terry Gordy vs. Ricky Steamboat-Nikita Koloff** was a good match, and you

say it was 20 years too late. **Dustin Rhodes-Barry Windham vs. Hiroshi Hase-Shinya Hashimoto** a 'D'? No way. Then you described the last match as "more boredom." This was a great match that you guys didn't like. You, **Dave Meltzer** and the other disappointed readers would have given this match ***** if it was in Japan.

None of you can judge the show objectively since you weren't in Albany. The people were possessed, not bored. This show had everything everyone wants (one no-show is the exception), with stiff matches and fast action. Sting sold, Dustin did the job and you still didn't like it. Since everyone got what they've been wanting for years and now they don't like it, I have one question: What do you want (**Ric Flair** not included)?

-- Bobby Yates
Asheboro, N.C.

AM: My main complaint about the Bash was mat wrestling that led to nowhere. There seemed to be no transition to the tags. Thus, to me, the matches seemed too long and boring. I truly enjoyed the **Sting vs. Big Van Vader** match, though. I believe I can objectively judge a show by watching it on television, although I am very happy you enjoyed what you saw. I can't fingerprint exactly what I want from a wrestling promotion, since I enjoy different aspects of every group. I love everything about All Japan Pro Wrestling. The same goes for Smokey Mountain Wrestling. I enjoy the Galavision lucha libre shows, and am starting to enjoy WCW's product much more than two months ago. I just thought the Bash was booked poorly.

Dear Alex,

I had a few questions. 1) I remember in the late 1970s in Championship Wrestling from Florida there was a wrestler named **Bryan St. John**. Didn't he go on to become **Michael Hayes**? 2) Didn't **R.T. Tyler**, the tag-team partner of **Bobby Jagers**, go on to become **Nikita Koloff**? 3) Who was **Derek "The Mongoose" Draper**, and where is he now? 4) Wasn't **Alexandra York** the **Zelda the Brain** character from G.L.O.W.? Did you ever find out what happened to her? 5) Do you think a compromise between the WWF and WCW could arrange for the release of **Lex Luger** from his non-compete clause? Like maybe the WWF agreeing to release **Ric Flair** from his contract early?

-- John M. Williams
Miami, FL

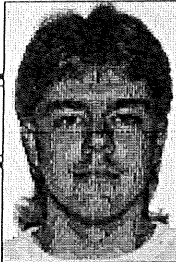
AM: In order -- 1-2) St. John and Hayes were not the same people. The same with Koloff and Tyler; 3) Draper's real name is **Ed Wiskowski**, and he went on to wrestle as **Colonel DeBeers** in the AWA; 4) York (**Terry Boatwright**) was a TBS make-up girl with no wrestling background. The last I heard of her, she was dating Dustin Rhodes; 5) I truly doubt any agreements between the WWF and WCW will ever occur with **Bill Watts** now leading the latter company. The scenario does not benefit WCW either, because the WWF needs Luger more than WCW needs Flair. In fact, if WCW continues to sign current or recent WWF performers, I expect McMahon will try countering with a raid of his own.

NJPW May Get Rude Awakening

In my last column, we covered the first round of the National Wrestling Alliance tag-team tournament. Now, we'll look at the rest of the tournament and how the **Bill Watts** factor could influence the outcome. Please note this column was written before the first-round matches were held. By the time you read this, the tournament will be finished. The matches listed below are corresponding to my previous predictions, so some may be wrong. After all, Watts is trying to make World Championship Wrestling unpredictable. New Japan Pro Wrestling already is.

Dave Meltzer of *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* fame and I will be attending the tournament from the

John Muse



quarterfinals on as part of our three-week tour of Japan. This column will take a brief hiatus until the first week of September, when a double issue will be mailed with my diary from the trip. I will call in tournament results to Alex for Issue 45 of *Three Count*.

August 10 at Tokyo's Sumo Hall (Quarterfinals)

- **Scott Norton vs. Masahiro Chono:** This match could be better than expected. Chono is a great worker and could carry Norton to a good match. The classic confrontation -- The huge foreigner vs. the Japanese underdog. Chono will continue his string of victories over the larger foes. **Winner:** Chono.

- **Keiji Muto vs. Arn Anderson:** This is a gimme. It doesn't make a difference who Muto fights here, Anderson or first-round opponent **Steve Austin**. **Winner:** Muto.

- **Kensuke Sasaki vs. Hiroshi Hase:** This is the first match where the Watts factor may come into play. We all expect **Rick Rude** to make it into the finals. Who will advance here to put Rude over on into the semi-finals? Hase has beaten Sasaki twice now on television since the latter returned from a broken shin bone. This is Sasaki's biggest match since his return. Hase would be hurt more by losing to Rude than losing to Sasaki. If I was booker, Hase would still advance. But **Riki Choshu** is the NJPW booker, and he loves an upset. Here it is. **Winner:** Sasaki.

- **Shinya Hashimoto vs. Rick Rude:** The Japanese really get into Hashimoto because he has the "shooter" look and reputation (much of it unjustified), but he really hasn't impressed me as an all-around worker. NJPW needs to get Rude over huge here to make his future opponents look like underdogs. Rude has to win big here. **Winner:** Rude.

August 11 at Tokyo's Sumo Hall (Semifinals)

- **Masahiro Chono vs. Keiji Muto:** This will be a rematch from the G1 Tournament final held last August. Last year, Chono entered the tournament as an underdog and scored the big win over Muto. Now, the odds will be even. This is where Choshu's booking strategy of having upsets really pays off. The fans will have no way of knowing who will win, and every near fall will mean something. Believe me, every time Chono hits Muto with a power bomb (the move he used for a victory last year), the Sumo Hall fans will gasp. The pop will come when Muto kicks out and goes on to even his score with Chono. Please note, though, that if Watts insists Rude wins the tournament, Chono may get the victory. **Winner:** Muto.

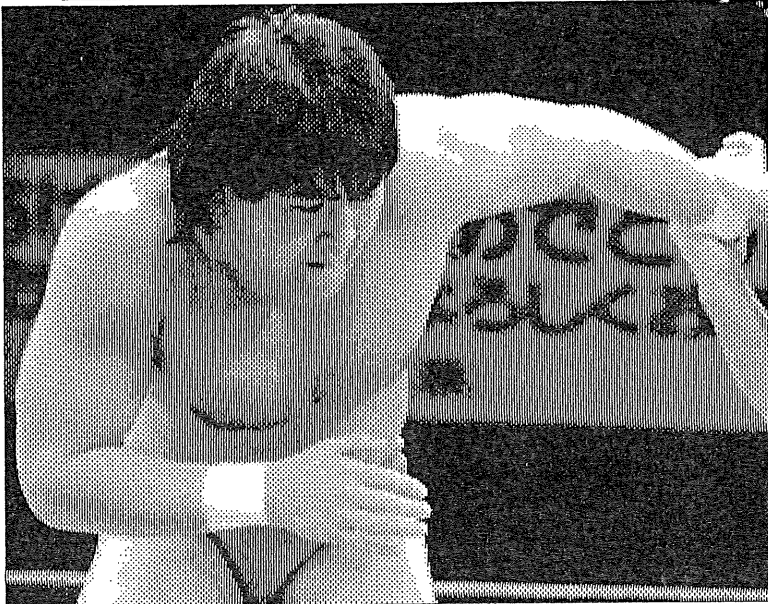
- **Kensuke Sasaki vs. Rick Rude:** These two should mesh pretty well in the ring. Sasaki is known for power moves, and Rude takes good bumps. Hopefully, someone will let Rude know about Sasaki's bad leg so Rude can put some heat on it. Once again, Rude has to go over huge. **Winner:** Rude.

August 12 at Tokyo's Sumo Hall (Final)

- **Keiji Muto vs. Rick Rude:** Here it is. The BIG match. If I was booking, this match would never take place. Muto would be in the final against Hase. You let those guys go 30 minutes and we would be talking about a five-star match. The problem is Watts will be here, and I don't think he will let Choshu book this thing without one of WCW's boys making the final. After all the jobs **Jushin Lyger** did on his recent WCW tour, Watts wouldn't have much influence with me if I worked for NJPW. Besides, who says Watts knows what works in Japan?

Anyway, if all goes well, Rude will be over enough to make Muto the underdog. A good match (and it should be) with the right finish will make everyone happy. The NWA title still has credibility in Japan and would be Muto's biggest achievement thus far. If Watts holds out for a Rude victory, the NJPW-WCW relationship could be in jeopardy. **Winner:** Muto.

By now, you probably think I have something against Watts. I really don't. I think he will do much better than his predecessors, but I question some of his decisions. It goes a lot deeper than Watts' "10 Commandments." The treatment of guys like **Brian Pillman**, **Terry Taylor**, **Cactus Jack** and **Lyger** is idiotic. All these guys can have good matches with or without use of the top rope. Just how committed is Watts to the NJPW-WCW relationship? It seems to me he doesn't care. Just look at some of the names in the tournament. **Jim Neidhart** and **The Barbarian**?!? These guys didn't fit in with slow-paced Super World Sports and they're expected to mean something here? Neidhart currently isn't working for WCW, so the promotion might not be at fault. But I find it hard to believe NJPW scoured the earth for a wrestler



If John Muse had his way, Keiji Muto would become the next National Wrestling Alliance champion. Photo: Dr. Mike Lano.

Wrestling until October. Tsuruta, current co-holder of the Pacific Wrestling Federation tag-team titles with **Akira Taue** (AJPW's major tag-team straps), injured his knee prior to the July AJPW tour. To show you how hot this group is, attendance hasn't dropped for AJPW even without its top drawing card. The question is how long it will take before Tsuruta's absence affects attendance. It will be interesting to see if booker/owner **Shohei "Giant" Baba** makes any changes or if he will sacrifice the short-term to keep his long-range goals intact.

Kunkel's Potshots

(Continued from Page 6)

seemed to brighten the spirits of several of the children," a floor nurse reported. "And digitalis and ice baths seemed to bring most of the rest of them around."). Finally, Hogan does the job and Bart gloats, "Haw! The bald guy lost!" To which Homer philosophically concedes, "The bald guy ALWAYS loses."

To me, that was the moment when the WWF was thrown totally out of synch with the homeopathic entertainment gods it had appeased so well in years gone by. But, like the portrait of **Dorian Grey**, the ugliness of its soul was now manifest as boring product, cardboard characters and creative ennui. With the loss of the Saturday Night Main Event venue (the "ultimate" proof that the product was offering too little to keep adults coming back), it was ordained. Never again could it reach masses of adults to push PPV shows, and it was at that point inevitable as I, ahem, wrote at the time, that there was no future and the good ship Titan was going down.

Maybe it's karma. After all, it is a position they have reportedly become quite accustomed to.

Bill Kunkel was a long-time WWF fan until too many hours working as a computer programmer warped his mind. Kunkel was co-host of the Las Vegas-based Wrestle Talk radio show, and is pro wrestling's leading artist. His column will appear bi-weekly.

to bring in, and all they could get was Neidhart.

Also, why were guys like **Rick and Scott Steiner** and **Big Van Vader** left out? **Ron Simmons** was also left off, but I understand that decision. He was going to have the WCW title by tournament time, thus he shouldn't have to do a job in the NWA tourney. As far as the Steiners go, they could have both done jobs and not hurt their credibility, the excuse being they are tag-team wrestlers and not singles. Besides, Hase did jobs in WCW. Ditto for Lyger and **Tatsumi Fujinami**. If Van Vader was left off to undergo surgery on his bad knee, that's fine. But the original excuse was that he was WCW champion. If WCW had planned the Simmons title change all along, why couldn't it have left Vader in the tournament? He certainly would have meant a lot more than Neidhart or The Barbarian. If Watts ruins the NJPW-WCW relationship, he has only himself to blame. Of course, he will place the blame on those nasty newsletter writers that print articles like this.

P-P-Pro Wrestling Ne-w-w-w-s: Jumbo Tsuruta will not be returning to All Japan Pro

Rey's Lucha

(Continued from Page 5)

three falls. I had heard Herodes had jumped to the AAA, but this was my first chance to see him. Also, the newest heel sensation (Rambo) was at his best. Volador pinned Parca, Azteca pinned Rambo and Misterioso pinned Herodes in the first fall. The second fall ended when Parca pinned Misterioso, Herodes pinned Volador and Parca made Azteca submit. The third fall ended with all three technicos performing lances onto the rudos, leaving them unable to answer the count. This match was great, with Misterioso and Volador stealing the show.

4) Another main event brawl, and another good match. **Mascara Sagrada-Perro Aguayo-Conan** (technicos) defeated **Angel Blanco Jr.-Jerry Estrada-Universo 2000** in three falls. Blanco pinned tecnico team captain Sagrada in the first fall, and the technicos evened things when Sagrada pinned Blanco, Conan made 2000 submit and Aguayo kept Estrada out of action. El Cobarde was interfering from ringside throughout this match. 2000 really worked over Sagrada's mask during the third fall, but Sagrada turned things around and pinned 2000 (the rudo captain) to win the fall and set up a title bout between the two for the August 2 show. Another good match with plenty of action.

Briefly

(Continued from Page 4)

Sting and Koloff made the save; Rude pinned Koloff in a match where **Madusa** was supposed to be barred from ringside. However, Madusa emerged in a police woman's uniform late in the match and interfered against Koloff, allowing Rude to gain the advantage and use the Rude awakening for the victory. Dangerously managed in one bout, an excellent 15-minute draw between Austin and Steamboat that was not taped for television.

- Expect **Erick Watts** in the wrestling ring sooner than almost anyone thinks. An angle was shot before the television taping featuring Rhodes and Windham working out in the ring together. The camera focused on WCW's production crew and focused on Watts, the starting quarterback at Louisville University last fall and son of WCW executive vice president **Bill Watts**. Watts reportedly entered the ring and worked some spots with Rhodes and Windham.

- The development of the **Randy Savage-Ultimate Warrior** break-up continued August 11 at a World Wrestling Federation television taping in Nashville, Tenn. Savage and Warrior wrestled **The Nasty Boys** and argued the entire match. Adding intrigue to their match at Summer Slam was the fact **Curt Hennig** and **Ric Flair** came out during the match to double-team Warrior, while The Nasties did the same to Savage. The Nasties won via countout in a two-star match (higher rating for the angle). In other matches taped at the show, Flair defeated **Tito Santana** in 15:20 with the figure-four leg-lock (**1/2; 8 near falls), **Tatanka** d. **Kato** (**), **Bret Hart** d. **Skinner** and **Money Inc.** d. **The Bushwhackers**. In dark matches, **The Undertaker** d. **The Berserker** (**), **The Big Boss Man** d. **Nailz** (DUD), Savage d. **Kamala** in 4:54 (*, but only because Savage is correspondent **Charlie Mattos**' favorite wrestler) and Warrior d. **Papa Shongo** in 5:00.

- A USWA-WWF co-promotion is possible after an angle was done between Hart and **Jeff Jarrett** at a WWF house show in Memphis two weeks ago. On the USWA television show, Jarrett did an interview talking about how he didn't want any other promotions invading USWA territory. Jarrett went to the matches that evening, climbed over a guard rail, grabbed the house mike and issued a challenge to Hart, who reportedly accepted the match. I don't know if this is a one-time deal, a working relationship between the two groups or, to compensate for the possible loss of more than 40 television stations from its syndicated network in September, the WWF is purchasing the USWA. Stay tuned.

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